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Chile
Post Report

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Chile's varying geographic regions include the northern altiplano region, seen here with grazing llamas (above) and the southern region with its beautiful waterfalls and rushing streams (left).

Cover: The Embassy annex at Merced 230 houses the Consular Section and APHIS.

This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Chile is a long, narrow ribbon of land stretching almost 2,700 miles along the west coast of South America, between 17° 25′ and 56° south latitude and 69° and 75° west longitude. Although it is one of the world's longest countries, its average width measures only 100 miles, and its maximum width, only 250 miles. Santiago, Chile's capital and its largest city, is almost directly south of Hartford, Connecticut. Valparaiso, the chief port of South America's west coast, is farther east than New York.

Chile, wedged between the Andes on the east and the Pacific on the west, is bordered by Peru on the north and Bolivia and Argentina on the east. Larger in area than any European country, except the U.S.S.R., Chile covers an area about the size of California, Oregon, and half of Washington States combined. Southern Chile is an archipelago with Cape Horn at its tip, where the Atlantic merges with the Pacific. Since Chile is south of the Equator, the seasons are reversed. Santiago is about as far from the Equator as are Atlanta and Los Angeles.

Chile has four distinct geographic regions: the northern desert (one-fourth of the country's land area); the high Andean sector, where several peaks reach over 20,000 feet; the central valley; and the southern lake district and archipelago. The northern fourth of the country, which has some of the world's most barren deserts, is rich in mineral products such as copper and nitrates.

The Cordillera of the Andes, a majestic mountain chain stretching the length of the country, is capped by Mount Aconcagua (23,000 feet), the highest peak in the hemisphere. These mountains offer excellent skiing, fishing, and mountaineering.

The central valley, where most of the population lives, stretches over 700 miles from San Felipe to Puerto Montt. Separating the central valley from the northern desert is a 400-mile semiarid stretch known as the "Norte Chico" (Little North).

The southern 200 miles of the central valley is strung with lakes on a line running north to south and parallel to the Argentine border. This is the famous lake region, renowned for its beauty. The usually rainy, forested southern fiords, with many glaciers and sea channels, resemble southernmost Alaska, and still further to the south are the windy steppes and sheep country of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.

Numerous Pacific islands are a part of Chilean territory. The Juan Fernandez Islands are 400 miles southwest of Valparaiso. The abandoned sailor Alexander Selkirk lived on one of these islands for 5 years; his adventures served as the theme of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. About 2,000 miles west of the continent is the famous Easter Island, or Rapa-Nui (Chilean since 1888), which is inhabited by Polynesians and is distinguished by unique, gigantic stone monuments and carvings.

Chile's climate is generally mild. In the far north, summers are warm and winters along the coast quite mild; the lake region is colder and wetter; in the far south (Patagonia and the straits) winters are long, cold, and wet. Despite the fact that much of the north lies within the Tropics, the climate is not tropical. The cold Humboldt Current off the coast and the relatively short distance between the coast and the snow-covered Andean peaks to the east modify what might otherwise be a hot climate. Long, dry summers (December–March) in Santiago feature warm days and cool evenings. The June–September winter season is cold and rainy, with dampness and fog making the cold more penetrating. The climate of Santiago is almost identical to that of Palo Alto and the southern bay region of California.

Population

Chile's population is about 12 million (1985). Unlike most Latin American countries, Chile is mainly urban (83%). About one-third of the populace lives in the capital and environs (Santiago Province). As in other developing countries, the population is youthful. About 75% of the population is under 40 years of age, and 42% of the population is under 20; only about 6% is 65 or over.

Chile is one of the more sparsely populated countries of Latin America (about 40 inhabitants per square mile). Its annual population growth rate is about 1.7%.

The family is usually a cohesive unit at all levels of society. A large middle class, with a nucleus of professional people, is important in business and government. But Chile also has a large "pobladores" (poor class) who live in "poblaciones" (makeshift communities scattered in suburban areas of larger cities), and a rural population, including the indigenous Araucanian Indians, whose standard of living generally falls well below that of the urban population.

The largest ethnic group is Spanish. Other principal groups include German, English, Italian, Yugoslav, and Arab. The population includes a small number of native Indians but almost no Asians or blacks. The Indians live mainly south of the Bio-Bio River and in the Andean North. The most important group, the aboriginal Araucanian Indians, never have been fully assimilated.

During the colonial period, European immigration originated almost entirely from Spain; early colonists were mainly Basques and Castilians. A small but influential number of Irish and English immigrants also came to Chile and played important roles in Chilean history. Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile's national hero, was of Irish descent.

READEX

Shown here is La Moneda, the President's office building.

After Chile won independence in 1810, many Irish, Scot, and Britons immigrated to Chile. In 1845 an official Chilean colonizing agency was set up in Europe to stimulate immigration, particularly from Germany. A small group of German colonists who arrived in 1850 were the first of a large-scale immigration that continued for 90 years. Most Germans settled in the Valdivia-Llanquihue-Chiloe area in the south, where towns have a decidedly Bavarian or Saxon atmosphere.

Spanish immigrants continued to arrive in large numbers throughout the 19th century and were joined by Italians, French, Swiss, British, Yugoslavs, and others.

Despite their diverse origins, few South American populations are more homogeneous than the Chileans. Their homogeneity and insularity have resulted in large part from the isolation resulting from geographic factors: mountains, deserts, a vast ocean, and distance from outside cultural and political centers.

The Catholic religion predominates and is influential at all levels of society. However, the constitution guarantees religious freedom and separation of church and state. About 10% of the population is Protestant.

Most Chilean holidays commemorate events important in the country's history or celebrate traditional feast days or holy days of the Catholic Church. The Fiestas Patrias, a 2-day celebration commemorating Chilean independence in mid-September, constitutes the main patriotic holiday. The greatest religious festivals occur during Christmas and Holy Week. Some areas celebrate other religious holidays with centuries-old processions and dances.

Typical Chilean cuisine is simple and hearty. Beef, chicken, and seafood are the most popular main dishes. Cazuela, a stew of chicken, beef, pork or fish, and the empanada, or turnover, filled with meat, fish, spiced onions, cheese, or even edible seaweed and served hot, are Chilean specialties. Wine accompanies most meals. Other typical Chilean drinks include borgona, red wine mixed with sparkling water and fruit; cola de mono, a Christmas drink, similar to eggnog; chicha, grape or apple cider; and pisco sour, pisco mixed with sugar syrup and lemon juice. Pisco is an indigenous liquor distilled from grapes.

Public Institutions

Chile is a unitary republic, governed by a military junta since September 1973. The current constitution, which came into effect March 12, 1981, following majority approval in a plebiscite the previous year, establishes continued military rule during a transition period with a phased return to elected civilian government. Under this plan, the transition is to last until 1989, when a presidential plebiscite is scheduled, followed by congressional elections in 1990. If the president proposed in the 1989 plebiscite is accepted, regular elections for president will follow in 1997. If not accepted, a regular presidential election will be held with the 1990 congressional election.

Executive power resides in the presidency and legislative powers during the transition are exercised by a four-member junta formed by the chiefs of the Navy, Air Force, and Carabineros (National Police), and a ranking Army General. Congress remains dissolved and political party activity is prohibited. Nevertheless, since August 1983, non-Marxist political parties have been allowed to operate fairly openly. Dissidents to the government began a series of protest demonstrations in 1983, followed by several hundred terrorist bombings in 1984, resulting in suspension of some civil rights and reimposition of an early morning curfew. The civilian judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court, continues to operate as an autonomous branch, as it did before the 1973 military takeover. A "fourth branch" of government, an independent Comptroller General's office, audits revenues and expenditures and performs a legal review of financial legislation or regulations issued by the government.

Chile is divided into 13 regions, which are further subdivided into 51 provinces and 335 municipalities ("comunas"). The president appoints all regional administrators ("intendentes"), provincial governors, and mayors.

Arts, Science, and Education

Santiago has traditionally been one of Latin America's most active centers of the fine and performing arts. Most cultural events are held between March and November. The Municipal

Philharmonic Orchestra of Santiago, the Chilean National Symphony, and the Municipal Ballet and Opera, have subscription series. The National Ballet of the University of Chile also performs during the cultural season. The hub of ballet and opera activity is Santiago's superb Municipal Theatre, which also attracts top foreign artists. The Beethoven Society of Santiago also offers a yearly subscription series featuring internationally recognized musicians. Frequent concerts and recitals by local artists are held throughout the year. Santiago has several cultural FM radio stations.

Santiago has a large number of professional theater companies, and new plays are produced regularly. "Santiago Stage," the Anglo-American community's amateur theater group, produces two or three plays in English each year. Many American and British films reach Santiago's cinemas only a few months after their U.S. release, and European and Latin American films are also frequently shown. Cinema films are usually shown in the original language with Spanish subtitles, but all non-Spanish TV films and other programs are dubbed in Spanish. Several "art" moviehouses present reruns of notable film classics.

Santiago has museums of fine arts; modern, folk, colonial, and pre-Columbian art; natural history; and Chilean national history. Works by modern artists, sculptors, and photographers are exhibited and sold in the many private galleries in Santiago. The National Library of Chile is one of the largest in Latin America. Books in English can be obtained from several local bookstores and from the library of the Chilean-American Cultural Institute (BNC) and from a paperback selection at the Embassy's commissary-recreation association.

Chile's folklore is rich. Examples of traditional music and dance are offered nearly every night of the year in several Santiago nightclubs and in more spontaneous form outside the capital. Other night spots feature urban "folk" music, jazz, and tango. Santiago has several discotheques.

Chilean writers have won international fame for their achievements. Among the country's 20th-century poets are the Nobel Prize winners Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, as well as Vicente Huidobro and Nicanor Parra. Jose Donoso, Maria Luisa Bombal, Isabel Allende, Manuel Rojas, and Jorge Edwards head the list of leading novelists. The country has also produced a number of fine short story writers, essayists, historians, and playwrights.

The Santiago Museum of Art.

Much scientific activity takes place in Chile, encouraged by the Chilean Government, universities, and other public and private entities. Most universities have departments of science and technology, and several of the country's finest centers of higher learning specialize in these fields. The Chilean Scientific Society publishes a scholarly journal.

Although Chile, unlike Peru or Bolivia to the north, was never the seat of a great Indian culture, archeological research centered in the northern desert has uncovered considerable evidence of pre-Columbian settlements showing southward extension of Incan and pre-Incan Andean civilizations.

Its location and clear desert air have made northern Chile the center of Southern Hemisphere astronomical research. Three of the world's largest observatories are located near La Serena, a day's drive north of Santiago.

Chile has been a leader in public education in Latin America since the mid-19th century. Of the country's universities the oldest and most prestigious are the University of Chile, founded in 1842, and Catholic University. The University of Santiago, dedicated mainly to science and technology, is also important. Valparaiso has three good-sized universities and Concepcion, two. Most other provincial capitals have universities which serve their respective regions.

Commerce and Industry

Chile's current policy aims at ensuring a competitive market economy directed principally by private sector decisions. The government has returned most of the commercial enterprises acquired under the previous Christian Democratic and Socialist regimes to private sector control. Many primary producers, however, especially CODELCO (copper), ENDESA (electricity), and CAP (steel), remain in government hands.

The international recession has caused the government to modify some of its free-trade-oriented policies. Tariffs previously 10% have been increased to 30%, a few foreign exchange restrictions have been introduced, and financial markets no longer freely establish interest rates. However, the government has resisted pressure to return fully to import substitution policies which characterized past economic history. Chile's former reliance on mining activity and import substitution industries failed to develop adequately other sectors, such as forestry, fruits, and fishing, in which Chile has a comparative advantage. The present government has tried to promote development in these areas to lessen the country's dependence on copper. As a result copper now accounts for less than 50% of Chile's export earnings compared to over 80% in the early 1970s.

Imports declined drastically in 1982 and 1983 after reaching a peak of $6.5 billion in 1981. They are beginning to pick up once again with the slow reactivation of the economy. There are no quotas or embargoes on imports, and foreign goods are abundant though generally somewhat higher priced than in the U.S. The U.S. remains Chile's main trading partner with some 25% of the import market. Other important trading partners are Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Germany.

Transportation

Automobiles

The axis of the generally adequate road network is a hard-surfaced highway running from Arica (in the north) to Puerto Montt which expands to four lanes near Santiago. Many other roads, however, are narrow and unpaved. Good paved roads connect central Chile with the Argentine border en route to Mendoza, Argentina, and the Argentine highway system and link Santiago with Valparaiso and other central coast cities. The road to the Argentine border is frequently closed by snow in winter.

A personal car is highly desirable for travel outside of Santiago, though a well-developed, often comfortable and inexpensive bus system links all major population centers. As in the U.S., a car is a must for shopping, social activities, and other errands. **See** Customs, Duties, and Passage, for information on importing cars.

Repairs for most American and foreign cars can be made in Santiago, but spare parts are not always available and are expensive. Because many Chilean roads are rough or unpaved, heavy-duty springs, shock absorbers, and undercoating are recommended. All personnel must pay a gasoline tax. Although winter temperatures in Santiago occasionally drop slightly below freezing, antifreeze normally is not needed, except when traveling in mountain areas. Chains are **required** for winter travel in mountain areas. If you plan to ski in Chile bring tire chains with you. Chains are available in Chile but are considerably more expensive than in the U.S.

Before shipping a vehicle, any accessories or parts that can be easily removed, such as radio, hubcaps, cigarette lighter, rearview mirror, ashtrays, and gearshift knob, should be packed in a carton and shipped airfreight (or mailed ahead by APO). Because shipboard theft and pilferage are **common**, personnel may wish to carry marine insurance on all shipments.

The Embassy obtains registration and license plates for personal vehicles of official personnel. (**See** Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property.) Local third-party liability insurance is required on all cars. Many Americans also purchase collision insurance, which is available locally as well as through U.S. companies. Collision insurance rates are very high, typically $500–$800 a year for the average American vehicle.

Employees must have a Chilean or international drivers license. A valid U.S. license eliminates the road test for the Chilean license, but an examination on traffic regulations and visual and hearing tests may be required. An international drivers license is recognized in Chile. Personnel should obtain one before arrival.

Local

Santiago offers a very comprehensive bus system with many new buses, but they are crowded during rush hour. The subway system is clean, inexpensive, and efficient. Many U.S. Embassy employees use it for commuting.

Taxi service is good and prices are reasonable. All taxis now have meters except tourist taxis at larger hotels, which charge a flat rate for certain trips. Taxis levy a legal surcharge after 9 pm and on Sundays which is not shown on the meter. Public transportation can meet most transportation needs, but as in the U.S., at the price of some inconvenience and waiting.

This post does **not** provide home-to-office transportation for official personnel. Nido de Aguilas and some other schools provide bus transportation for children for a fee.

Regional

Chile has a fairly extensive but old railway system, although at this time no rail passenger service operates north of Santiago. Sleeping cars and roll-on, roll-off cars for automobiles provide overnight rail service between Santiago and Puerto Montt. Most intercity buses are new and comfortable and follow fixed schedules. Some long-distance buses feature sleeping berths.

Air service is well developed and important to Chile's economy. Several

domestic lines serve principal Chilean cities. Several carriers provide frequent service between Chile and the U.S., including two American airlines. American and foreign passenger ships and freighters call at Valparaiso.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

Telephone service is reasonably good, but private phones in some areas may be difficult to obtain. Calls can be made to all parts of Chile, and direct-dial international service to many countries (including the U.S.) is quite satisfactory but expensive. International telegraph service is good.

Mail and Pouch

International Mail. Adequate international mail service is available to and from Chile. Although service is possibly faster than that of the APO facilities, it is more expensive and is not as reliable. Use the following address for international mail:

Name
Name of Agency
American Embassy
Casilla 27-D
Santiago, Chile

Airpouch Facilities. Santiago is a category "A" post which excludes the use of diplomatic mail facilities for personal mail except for those items set forth in paras. 332.3-2 and 332.3-3 of 5 FAM. The APO facilities receive airpouches containing official mail at least three times a week and dispatch outgoing airpouches from Santiago to Washington six times a week. Official mail is distributed to Mission personnel through the Embassy mailroom. Use the following address for airpouch mail:

Name
Santiago
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

APO Facilities. The post has a full-service incoming and outgoing APO. The APO is used for all personal letters and for parcels in the unrestricted category, which measure a maximum 100 inches length and girth combined and weigh no more than 70 pounds. Services available include insurance on outgoing parcels, special delivery on outgoing mail, certified

The Statue of San Martin is shown here with the Telecommunications Tower in the background.

mail, and return receipts. Services not available are money orders, registered packages and mail, and COD mail.

The APO facility receives and sends mail daily. The APO counter is open 8 am–6 pm on weekdays and 9 am–1 pm on Saturdays. APO mail should be addressed:

Name
American Embassy
APO Miami, FL 34033

Radio and TV

Radio is Chile's most influential mass communications medium. There are a total of 155 AM and 118 FM radio stations in Chile, with 19 AM and 22 FM stations in Santiago alone. Broadcasting is in Spanish. Several Santiago stations broadcast American music on FM-Stereo. English-language news can be heard on shortwave via Voice of America (VOA), Armed Forces Radio (AFRTS), and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

Santiago has four TV channels, all of which broadcast in color, using the U.S. (ANTSC) system. Programing is heavily entertainment-oriented and includes a large percentage of U.S. TV and screen productions dubbed in Spanish. Current plans call for the installation of Chile's first cable TV system to begin in Santiago in 1985.

VHS videotapes of English-language films are available for rental at reasonable prices through several outlets in Santiago. The American Embassy Recreation Association rents a modest selection of VHS tapes and VHS recorders to official personnel and their families. Both VHS recorders and standard U.S. TV sets operate in Chile when used with a 220–110v step-down transformer. Local prices for electronic equipment and spare parts are high.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Because English-language books and magazines are scarce in Chile, bring books and subscribe to your favorite periodicals via APO. The international editions of *Time* and *Newsweek* are sold locally. In early 1985 several newsstands were selling 2–4-day-old American newspapers from incoming flights. Same-or-next-day subscription service to the *Miami Herald* was also being planned. Some American personnel subscribe to a U.S. newspaper through the APO. Chilean information media operate entirely in Spanish.

Chile's National Library ranks as one of the largest in Latin America. U.S. and U.K. binational centers in the main cities have English-language books and periodicals in their libraries. The Recreation Association also has a small lending library of current bestsellers.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Embassy's Health Unit maintains a limited supply of medications and first-aid items for treating on-the-job illnesses or injuries. The Unit is staffed by a registered nurse 3 days a week. The Health Unit offers a full range of services to official personnel and their families, including emergency treatment, immunizations, treatment of minor illnesses, medical information and counseling, referral assistance, and monitoring of any medical problems. The nurse writes a note to the general official community periodically in the weekly newsletter about current medical problems of interest with suggestions on recognition and treatment, or prevention.

A Chilean general practitioner, who is well acquainted with U.S. medicine, serves as consultant to the Mission on specific health and medical problems. The regional medical officer, currently stationed in La Paz, visits Santiago every 3 months for consultation and to ensure that Embassy personnel receive proper medical care.

Inoculations normally received before departure from the U.S. protect against ordinary health hazards in Santiago. On arrival employees and their dependents should bring their immunization records to the Health Unit for the nurse's review and to note the due dates for immunizations. The Health Unit provides a full range of immunization services, including oral polio vaccines, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid, gamma globulin, as well as the series vaccines required for small children. The post Health Unit and the Department of State strongly recommend gamma globulin every 6 months to protect against infectious hepatitis.

While in the U.S., employees and their dependents should obtain a yellow fever shot, which can be given only at approved vaccination centers. Though yellow fever is not found in Chile, the shot is required in some South American countries and yellow fever immunization protects travelers in tropical and subtropical areas.

A number of local physicians have obtained medical training in the U.S. and Europe. Well-trained, English-speaking dentists and orthodontists also are available. The cost of doctor visits or dental care by these English-speaking or foreign-trained practitioners is comparable to U.S. prices. Several hospitals in Santiago provide the full range of medical services found in U.S. hospitals, usually at a cost lower than in the U.S.

Most diseases or disorders can be treated in Santiago. When this is not possible, medical travel is authorized to Miami or other U.S. medical facilities as required.

Many medical facilities provide round-the-clock emergency services including ambulance transportation and on-duty medical personnel.

Many pharmacies are open 24 hours on a rotating basis, and a few others are open 24 hours daily.

Most drugs are high priced, and many medications sold in the U.S. are not sold here. Bring an adequate supply of any required prescription drugs. The regional medical officer can renew a prescription during a visit to post. Employees can order drugs by mail from several Washington pharmacies that specialize in such services.

Vitamins are also expensive locally. Bring a good supply of supplementary multivitamins and vitamin C. For small children you may want to bring the chewable kind with fluoride as city water is not fluoridated. The Health Unit maintains a supply of fluoride tablets for children. Eyeglasses, including bifocals and contact lenses, and lens prescriptions can be obtained here.

To protect your skin from the dry climate, bring body lotions, moisturizer creams, and bath oils. Suntan preparations should be worn at the beaches and skiing areas. Exposure to the sun should be limited to prevent severe burning, which occurs rapidly in this climate.

One of Santiago's many private clinics, Clinica Las Condes.

Community Health

Community health is generally fair in Santiago and compares to that of other large Latin American cities. The sewage system and trash collection are efficient. Nevertheless earthquake damage and sometimes deficient supervision of sewage system during construction and repair, i.e. road pavement, metro construction, etc., causes occasional drinking water contamination in certain areas of the city. Otherwise the water is purified and generally safe to drink. Nevertheless many families prefer to boil their drinking water. No unusual pests or vermin problems exist in Santiago. Outside the larger cities, however, water may be contaminated, and bottled water is recommended.

Food and beverages are generally safe. However, choose restaurants carefully and prepare raw fruits and vegetables with care. Milk sold in paper or plastic containers, often reconstituted, is pasteurized and safe. "Long-life" sterilized milk not requiring refrigeration prior to opening is readily available. Boil fresh milk found on farms before drinking, to avoid tuberculosis. Good-quality, tasty powdered and liquid processed milk is sold locally and at the Embassy commissary.

Preventive Measures

Respiratory ailments are prevalent. Chile's climate, with its sharp temperature changes from day to night and heavy smog, and poorly heated houses contribute to a high incidence of respiratory illnesses. Sore throats and sinusitis are common. If you use an inhalator for severe sinus blockage, bring it.

Intestinal upsets (indigestion and diarrhea) are common among Americans. Newcomers especially are prone to attacks, but no one is immune. Mild disorders occur regardless of precautions taken. More serious infections such as bacillary dysentery, amebic dysentery, and typhoid fever usually can be avoided. However, typhoid and hepatitis do occur. All personnel are urged to renew typhoid and gamma globulin shots regularly and to wash all salad ingredients, berries, and fruits in an antiseptic such as Bacilan, Zonalin, iodine tablets, and Clorox.

A pamphlet prepared by the Health Unit provides local medical information and preventive health measures.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

The U.S. Mission frequently hires personnel on temporary appointments to fill in for regular employees on leave. The applicant must be a spouse or dependent of a U.S. Mission employee and a U.S. citizen. Salary is commensurate with ability and experience. A few local-hire positions have been designated American family member (AFM) positions and may be filled by dependents.

Other jobs open to spouses or dependents include work at the APO, commissary, or snackbar.

A few private schools occasionally hire qualified teachers. Generally, applicants must hold a teaching degree from an accredited university. However, many language institutes in the city hire native English speakers, who do not have a degree or experience, to teach English.

The Embassy has signed an agreement with the Chilean Government that allows dependents of U.S. Embassy diplomatic staff to work in Chile. Dependents holding diplomatic visas who wish to work may seek employment in the local economy or with American companies in Santiago. Dependents must, however, pay Chilean taxes on their salaries, and they waive their diplomatic immunity on the matters regarding that employment.

The Community Liaison Office (CLO) maintains a list of spouses and dependents seeking employment. The CLO representative informs members of the U.S. Mission of Embassy vacancies as they arise. Also, spouses may be able to obtain employment before their arrival at post with one of the international organizations that maintain offices in Santiago. These include:

Centro Latinoamericano de Demografia (CELADE)-Latin American Demographic Center Alonso de Cordova 3107

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), Avenida Dag Hammarskjold

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Avenida Providencia 871

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Pedro de Valdivia Norte 0193 piso 11

Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas (IICA)-Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Studies, Avenida Providencia 199, piso 4

International Labor Office (ILO), Bandera 341

International Monetary Fund (IMF), Agustinas 1180, c/o Banco Central de Chile

Organization of American States (OAS), Exequias Alliende 2385

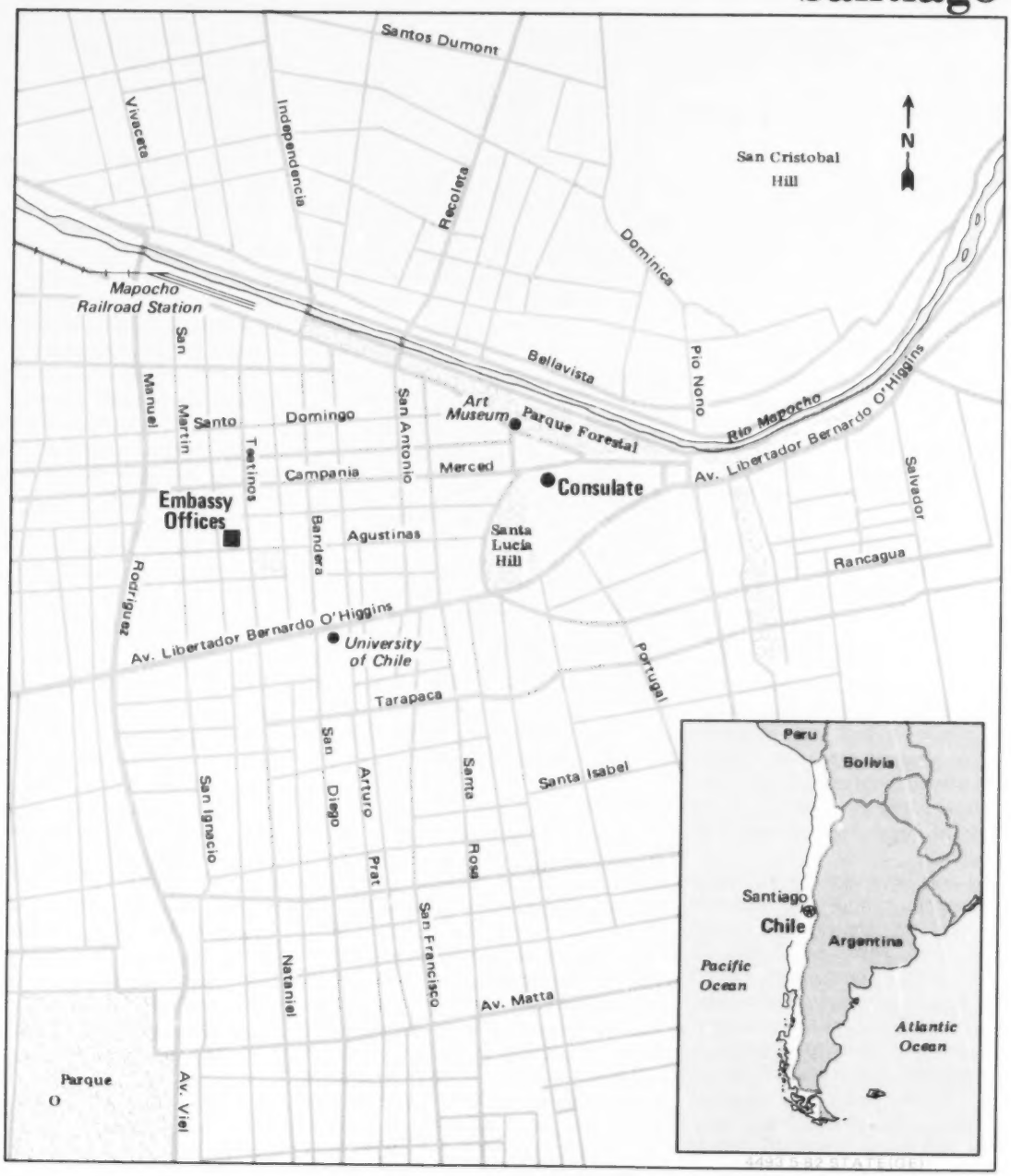
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Huerfanos 786, oficina 710

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Avenida Isidora Goyenechea 3322

A directory of the American Chamber of Commerce is available as part of the resource material for prospective job applicants.

All dependents seeking employment should inform the CLO of their skills and preferences. Every effort will be made to assist them.

Santiago


Santos Dumont
Vivaceta
Independencia
Recoleta
Dominica
San Cristobal Hill
N
Mapocho Railroad Station
San
Manuel
Martin
Santo
Domingo
Tentinos
San Antonio
Art Museum
Parque Forestal
Bellavista
Pio Nono
Rio Mapocho
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins
Salvador
Campania
Merced
Consulate
Embassy Offices
Bandera
Agustinas
Santa Lucia Hill
Rancagua
Rodriguez
Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins
University of Chile
Portugal
Tarapaca
San Ignacio
San Diego
Arturo Prat
Santa Rosa
Santa Isabel
San Francisco
Av. Matta
Nataniel
Parque O
Av. Viel
Peru
Bolivia
Santiago
Chile
Argentina
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean

American Embassy

Santiago

Founded in 1541 by Pedro de Valdivia, greater Santiago today is a modern city of more than 4 million inhabitants, about one-third of all Chileans. It is the cultural, political, financial, and commercial center of Chile. Santiago impresses foreigners as being more European than most Latin American cities—a reflection of its population characteristics and Chile's historical isolation from its neighbors.

The city lies at the eastern edge of the fertile central valley, and some of its residential areas reach into the Andean foothills. The Andean peaks, covered with snow almost all year, usually are visible from the city's downtown center. Situated roughly 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean, Santiago is at an altitude of about 1,700 feet.

Greater Santiago covers 369 square miles, making it the fourth largest city in South America. Chile's standard of living, which ranks high in Latin America, is highest in Santiago, where most of the country's wealth is concentrated.

Chile's other large population centers—Valparaiso, Concepcion, and Antofagasta—have distinct personalities but are more provincial. Valparaiso has a long history and all the color and vitality of a seaport.

Almost all European nationalities are represented in Chile; several thousand displaced persons were resettled here after World War II. Major foreign colonies include German, Arab, British, Italian, and Yugoslav. The American colony numbers about 5,000; the English-speaking community, about 8,000, but much of this community is bilingual and many additional Chileans have a workable knowledge of English.

The Post and Its Administration

In Santiago, U.S. Government employees and their dependents number about 170 and represent nine departments or agencies of the U.S. Government: State, Commerce, U.S. Information Agency, Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Defense Attache Office, Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

All agencies maintain their principal offices in Santiago, except NASA, which is in Colina about an hour by car north of town. Foreign (largely American) personnel working for a consortium of U.S. universities at Cerro Tololo, near La Serena, a day to the north by car, also have limited diplomatic import privileges.

Embassy offices (except Consular and APHIS) are situated on the upper floors of the CODINA building at Agustinas 1343 in downtown Santiago. The Consular Section and APHIS are in the annex at Merced 230, about 13 blocks from the Embassy, a building which once housed the Ambassador's residence. The Embassy telephone number is 710133.

As the President's representative, the Ambassador is the Chief of Mission and responsible for the direction of all U.S. Government agencies in Chile. The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) assists the Ambassador and is in charge during the Ambassador's absence. The Embassy is divided into Political, Economic, Consular, and Administrative Sections.

An important part of the post is the U.S. Information Agency, or USIA. The chief officer of USIA is the public affairs officer, whose objective is to foster a better understanding of U.S. policies and cultural achievements and to emphasize U.S.-Chilean mutual interests. To achieve this objective, USIA uses all available communications media. USIA has a cultural affairs section, a press section, and an audiovisual section. In Santiago, the Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano offers extensive English and Spanish courses and a program of lectures, films, concerts, and discussions, and a bilingual secretarial course. Smaller Chilean-run binational centers are in most of Chile's major cities.

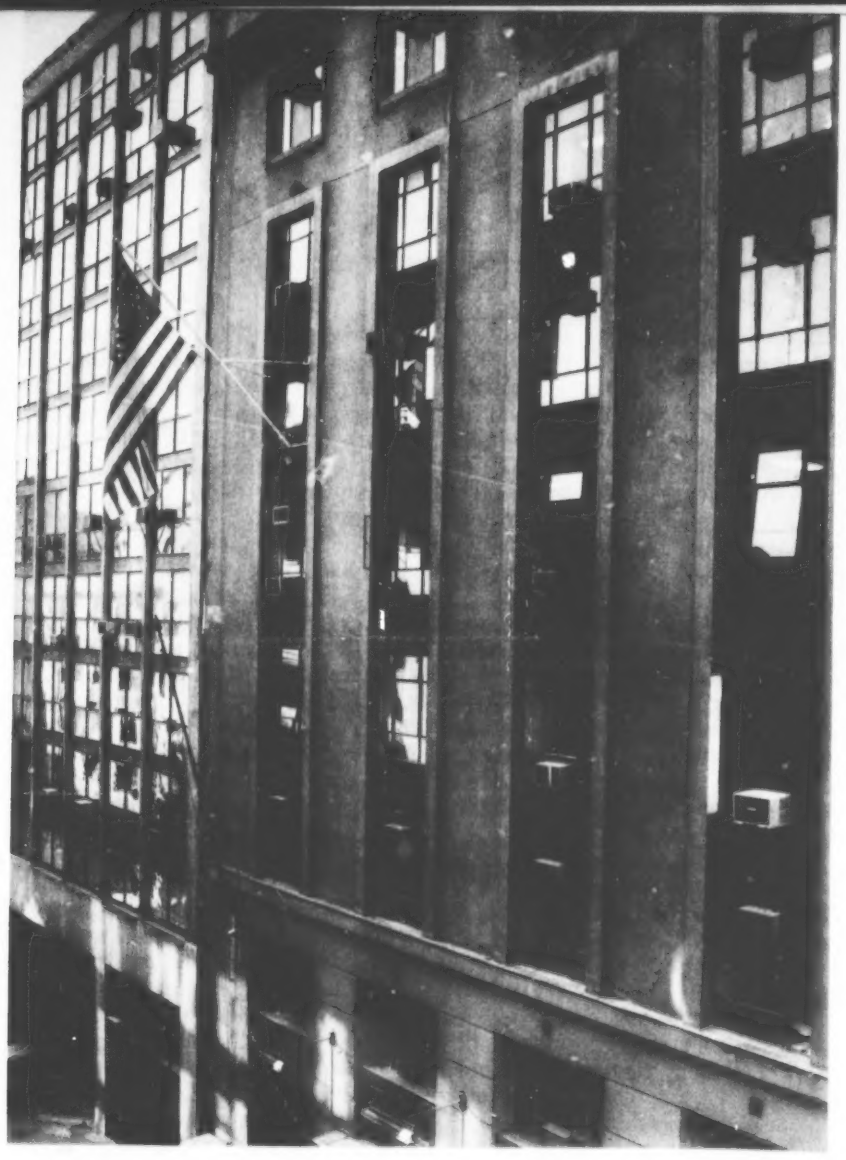
The Adminstrative Section provides a full range of support services—such as fiscal matters, personnel services, travel assistance, requisitioning, customs, security, and health services—to the entire Embassy and all agencies present. The Budget and Fiscal Office provides a full range of fiscal services for all personnel. Payroll and allowance payments for State, USIA, Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), and Commerce personnel are made by the Washington Finance Center (WFC), Washington, D.C. Most employees allot their salaries to U.S. banks; allotments are forwarded by the Department each payday.

Other Administrative Section elements are General Services and Security. General Services is responsible for transportation, travel, shipments of personal goods (including cars), housing maintenance, procurement, and a motorpool of some 20 official Embassy vehicles.

The regional security officer provides security services ranging from briefing newcomers, supervising daily security activities at post offices and homes, to planning evacuations.

The CLO is also part of the Administrative Section and its objective is to provide social, cultural and recreational assistance to employees and their dependents. CLO also maintains a skills bank for spouses wishing to work, as well as information on schools, shopping, domestics, community activities, travel, and medical services. Persons assigned to Santiago are urged to write to the CLO with any questions before their arrival.

Hours for all agencies in the Chancery annex are currently 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Employees may eat lunch at nearby restaurants or at the Embassy



The U.S. Embassy, Santiago comprises the upper floors of the CODINA Building. The Embassy annex was once the Ambassador's residence. The entrance to the current Ambassador's residence is shown below.

The Embassy owns and furnishes the DCM's house (above). Most employees live in government-leased, -furnished apartments such as this building (right).

snackbar, which serves breakfast, a hot lunch, and sandwiches throughout the day.

All agencies meet new arrivals traveling by air if arrangements are made in advance. If you are not met, call the Embassy (710133, ext. 207); a Marine Guard is on duty 24 hours daily. Arrangements can be made to have you picked up and taken to your temporary quarters.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

The Embassy Recreation Association leases apartments in the residential area to accommodate arriving personnel. New arrivals may occupy the apartments for up to 90 days, which is usually enough time to locate permanent housing and to receive household effects.

Each transient apartment has three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, dining and living room, and domestic's room/bath. Three of the apartments are located in an apartment building which has a swimming pool, sauna, tennis court, and gym.

All apartments are equipped with linens, dishware, glassware, and other basic housekeeping items. Daily domestic service is provided in the apartments. Pets are allowed, but the tenant is responsible for any damages.

Sponsors must make transient quarters reservations as soon as exact arrival dates are known. Incoming employees with dependents will have priority. If apartments are not available, new arrivals will stay in one of several good hotels, some of which even have cooking facilities.

Permanent Housing

The U.S. Government owns and furnishes the Ambassador's residence and the homes of the DCM, the agricultural attache, the defense attache, senior counselors, and eight apartments for staff members. It leases houses for the PAO, the NASA director, the Marine Security Guards, the commercial counselor, DEA (two houses), and the Marine Security Guard NCOIC.

The Embassy provides furniture, furnishings, and appliances for all personnel.

In July 1983, Embassy Santiago began implementing an expanded government-leased housing program to include American personnel of all agencies. Where practical and appropriate, an arriving employee is assigned to the quarters of his/her predecessor. If more than one employee is arriving at about the same time and only one house or apartment is available, the housing will be given to the employee whose family is best suited to the housing. For example, housing with the most bedrooms will go to the largest family.

Once an employee is assigned quarters, the housing assignment is permanent for your entire tour.

For government-owned or -leased quarters, charges for electricity, heat, gas, and water (but not telephone bills) are paid by the Embassy.

The GSO will assist employees without an initial housing assignment in finding suitable housing.

Most newly constructed apartment buildings and many private homes feature central heating, which should be considered in locating housing. Most houses and apartments have three bedrooms plus a servant's room and bath. Fireplaces are common and used perhaps half the year against the evening chill.

The tenant must repair any damage to the house or its equipment during his or her occupancy.

All electric heating, and other services, will be checked thoroughly by GSO before you sign a lease. Electrical wiring and current must be adequate for American appliances such as washers.

Furnishings

The post provides all furniture, furnishings, and major appliances (stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, usually freezer) to all Mission employees.

Employees are expected to provide locally available cots, mattresses, and bed linens for household help. Freestanding metal closets for storage are useful, especially for large families, as some houses do not have enough closets.

Bring blankets, bed linens, mattresses and covers, shower curtains and rings, and all kitchen utensils. The commissary loans dishes and glassware for entertaining. If you plan to live in a house, bring a lawnmower, gardening tools, hoses, and sprinklers (except for those living in U.S. Government-owned houses, which are provided gardening services).

Utilities and Equipment

Current in Chile is 220v, 50-cycle, single-phase, 2-wire, AC. Electrical appliances—mainly smaller models—are manufactured locally, but quality is often poor and prices are high. Space heaters that use bottled gas or kerosene are available locally. All 110v appliances will operate with stepdown transformers; however, if you are buying new appliances, buy 220v, 50-cycle models.

Recordplayers, tape recorders, and other 60-cycle items can be converted to 50 cycles. Include conversion kits in your freight. You cannot convert 60-cycle electric clocks to 50 cycles, and they will not function properly.

U.S. microwave ovens and TV sets can be used with transformers. Freezers are convenient to store seasonally available foods and are normally issued by the GSO. Air-conditioners are not necessary, but electric fans may be useful for bedrooms.

Food

Fresh fruits and vegetables are varied, of high quality, and readily available. Before eating, however, you must clean and soak them in a special disinfectant, available locally. Chile exports large quantities of fresh fruits to the U.S. Winter supplies are more limited, but selection is still good. Fish and seafood from the Chilean coastline include many interesting, little-known varieties that many Americans have come to enjoy. Fruits and vegetables, as well as fish, chicken, general delicatessen products, cleaning supplies, and flowers are available at the street markets and in centrally located, covered markets in Santiago, as well as in modern supermarkets.

Supermarkets sell both fresh, pasturized milk and reconstituted milk low in butterfat. Condensed, evaporated, or powdered milk manufactured locally is of good quality and reasonably priced. Limited varieties of local cheeses are available, as well as many kinds of imported cheeses. Other local dairy products include yogurt, margarine, butter, sour cream, pot cheese, cottage cheese, and ice cream. Local brands of cereal, cake mixes, and acceptable baby formula and strained foods are available. Most food items in Chile are currently less expensive than in the U.S. (subject to change).

Chile is famous for its excellent, inexpensive wines. Beer and soft drinks are also available.

The Embassy commissary is located in the basement of the Consulate and controlled by a Recreation Association board. It sells alcoholic beverages; cigarettes and tobacco products; detergents, household cleaning supplies, paper goods; and feminine hygiene products and some toiletries. Cooking oil, vegetable shortening, spices, brown sugar, bitter chocolate, cake mixes, powdered milk, cereals, fruit juices, soups, canned vegetables, gelatin, disposable diapers, and a limited supply of baby food are also carried. Families with infants should bring or ship any specially required items. The commissary does not stock diet foods, film, or cosmetics. You can buy these items at expensive prices here, or order them from the U.S. through the APO.

Although the commissary meets many of the community's needs, it cannot stock a large variety of every item, and it does not duplicate local supermarkets. Shipping and customs clearance delays cause occasional stock depletions. Bring any essential items with you, especially if you feel strongly about a particular brand of food or toiletry. The commissary can place individual orders for unavailable items. Membership deposits—$100 per family and $40 for singles—are refunded on departure. Most commissary prices are higher than in the U.S. because of high shipping costs; liquor and cigarettes however usually cost less.

The Recreation Association offers the following services to members:

- Several rental vehicles available for personal use.
- A video club with tapes and machines available for rent (VHS).
- Small adult and children's libraries.
- Beach and ski houses or apartments are sometimes leased for rental.
- Members may also borrow from the commissary's large stock of card tables and chairs as well as glassware and dishes.

Clothing

Located in the temperate zone, Santiago has four seasons. Clothing worn here is similar to that worn in the bay area south of San Francisco. Winter is long but mild. From June through September rainfall may be heavy, but it rarely freezes. During these months you need warmer clothing for damp and chilly, poorly heated homes. Lightweight thermal underwear is useful. Bring raincoats, umbrellas, and boots from the U.S. Spring and autumn are sunny and mild with some rain.

Rain is scarce during Santiago's warm, sunny, and dry summer (December through March). Houses usually remain cool and pleasant. The temperature drops at sundown, and cool summer evenings require a light wrap.

Chileans dress stylishly. Although readymade clothes are available, large sizes are difficult to find and extra-long men's clothing is unavailable. Chile manufactures lovely leather shoes, but, compared with U.S.-manufactured footwear, the choice of lasts is smaller and most readymade shoes are made in only one width for each size. Large sizes and narrow widths are available in only two or three stores. In Santiago children's shoes are more expensive than in the U.S. and are not always satisfactory. Shoes and boots can be made at reasonable prices.

Quality among Santiago's seamstresses and tailors varies, but most personnel have been pleased with their work which is much cheaper than in the U.S. Good men's suits can be made from the woolens, cottons, and synthetics locally available; a wider variety of material is available for women's wear. Bring sewing needs; e.g., interfacings, special trimmings, extra sewing machine needles, and patterns. The selection of threads, buttons, and zippers is limited. A sewing machine is useful, but the motor should be 120v, 50/60 cycles. Drycleaning is adequate.

Men. Men wear business suits for office and social functions. Sportcoats and slacks also are acceptable for office wear except for senior officers, whose counterparts generally wear suits. A dark suit is appropriate for most evening occasions. For year-round wear mediumweight wool-blend suits are most practical, though some men prefer a heavier fabric for winter and wash-and-wear suits for summer. A washable raincoat with zip lining is necessary. Bring a raincoat that will remain water repellent without special treatment, because few drycleaners offer this. A topcoat may be useful. Hats are a matter of personal choice.

Chile's four seasons require a variety of sportswear. Flannel or wool shirts are comfortable for winter. Attractive wool and synthetic-knit shirts and sweaters are available usually for less than in the U.S. Bring swim trunks, sports slacks, golf shoes, tennis apparel, etc. Though locally available, sportswear may cost more or be of lower quality. Good quality cotton-knit underwear and socks are sold.

Formal attire is rarely worn in Chile except by the Ambassador and DCM and their spouses. They should bring dark tuxedos and long dresses, and tuxedos may be useful occasionally to other senior officers. Anyone who already owns formal attire should bring it, since it is also the preferred dress at the Embassy's annual Marine Ball.

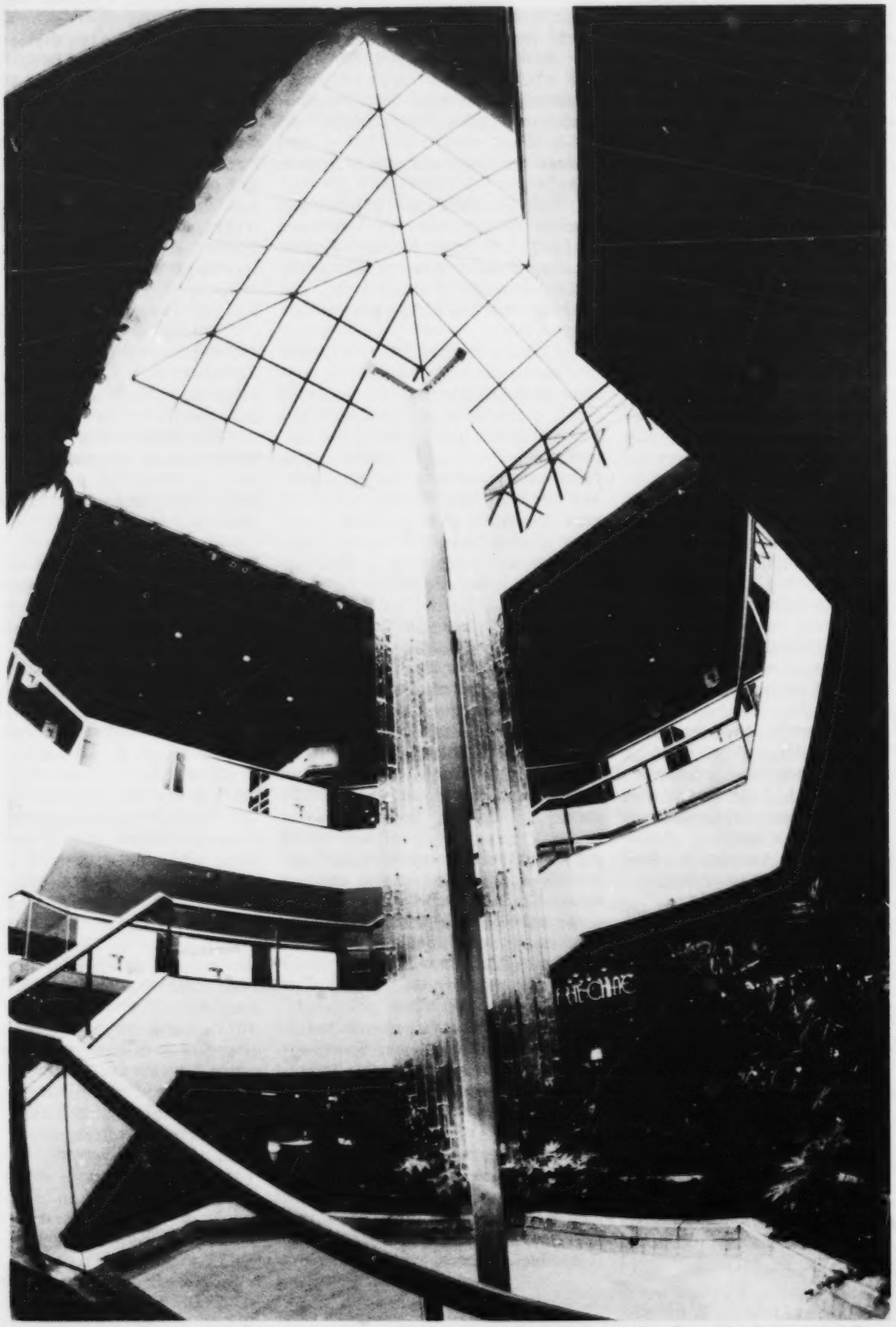
Women. Knits are quite fashionable and readily available. Leather jackets and coats and bags and shoes are always popular. Chilean women dress more formally than American women. Chile has a wide selection of furs.

A basic wardrobe of multipurpose clothing is more practical than many clothes of limited use. Suits, wool dresses, knits, and two- and three-piece combinations of wool and wool-synthetic blends are popular for office, street, or daytime functions from April through October. Houses are usually damp and chilly during this period, and warm clothing is needed. Skirts, blouses, and sweaters often are worn for office and informal meetings as well as at home. The widely varying temperatures during a 24-hour period often makes the layered look the most practical.

In the summer (and occasionally in spring and autumn) women wear cotton, linen, and synthetic fabrics. You will need a light wrap on cool evenings. Stoles and blazers, as well as sweaters or sweatercoats, are worn often.

Bring short dresses of silk, wool, etc., for dinner and cocktail parties. Chilean women wear the latest fashion in clothes—both in style and fabrics—but usually follow the U.S. or European season.

Few Chilean women wear hats. Gloves are worn but are only necessary in winter. Stockings are available in



Shopping in Santiago ranges from covered markets to the convenience of supermarkets and modern enclosed shopping malls.

most sizes and qualities. Varied lingerie is available. A long warm robe is useful.

Children. Overalls, jeans, knit and flannel-lined garments, and sweaters are indispensable for young children in winter. Washable, waterproof, lightweight snowsuits or medium-weight overcoats with leggings are essential for outdoors. Mediumweight ski jackets are used a great deal. Boots are recommended. Bring sweaters that are easily washed, though local wool sweaters are less expensive than in the U.S. Bring lightweight or medium-weight cotton thermal or knit long-sleeved pajamas for all children. Bring plenty of shoes and socks, for school and play, including tennis shoes and sandals. Find a U.S. mail-order source familiar with your children's sizes to send shoes as needed.

Children here often wear attractive ponchos with hoods or some type of head covering. These are sold locally. Satisfactory cotton knit and synthetic shorts and shirts, and highly styled children's clothes may require special care compared with similar U.S. garments.

For small children, bring diapers, bottles, extra nipples, plastic pants, crib, stroller, etc.

Most school children must wear uniforms. However, the Nido de Aguilas School and some others where American students go do not require uniforms. Do not purchase school uniforms until you know which school your children will atttend. Younger children sometimes wear coveralls or smocks over their uniforms—these are sold locally. Boys uniforms for those schools that require them usually consist of medium-to-dark-gray trousers, white shirts, and navy blue cardigans or V-necked sweaters with navy socks and black shoes. A medium blue blazer may be purchased here or from a mail-order store. Bring other items from the U.S. In winter boys may wear a navy blue peacoat or ski jacket.

Girls wear navy blue jumpers that must be purchased or made here in a specified style. White blouses, long- or short-sleeved, navy blue cardigans, navy kneesocks, and black shoes should be purchased in Chile or the U.S. A carcoat, ski jacket, or navy blue peacoat also is recommended. Bring warm gloves.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Some well-known brands of American and international toiletries are available on the market but, if not made locally, may prove to be expensive. Also, the commissary stocks a limited selection of toiletries and nonprescription drugs. Bring an initial supply of medicines; cosmetics, including products for dry skin; and personal grooming aids. You may wish to arrange with a U.S. store to mail future needs. The Embassy nurse has a small selection of essential medicines available on a limited basis for official personnel.

A few starter kits are available for use until your household effects arrive, but you should bring basic household supplies and appliances. Remember that electricity in Chile is 220/50cps. Plastic items and kitchen gadgets and utensils are available locally for additional supplies to supplement personal supplies. A quarter-inch drill with concrete and carbide bits, with fiber plugs and screws, useful for hanging pictures, costs less in the U.S. For minor household repairs, bring a basic toolkit including hammer, insulated screwdriver, and large pliers or wrench. Other items to bring include stationery, crayons, children's toys, greeting cards, gift wrap, and ribbon. Include sheets, blankets, washable bedspreads, pillows, and towels in your household effects shipment, though all these items are available at higher cost locally in case you forget them.

Books are available, but the supply is sporadic. A few bookstores and newsstands carry English-language material, but prices are somewhat higher than in the U.S. The Nido de Aguilas School, the Recreation Association lending library, the binational center, and a few good churches offer lending library facilities for adults and children as well as the American Association.

Basic Services

Tailoring and dressmaking services are available and inexpensive compared to the U.S. Laundry service and dry-cleaning are adequate as mentioned previously. (See Clothing.)

Service at beauty salons, which includes care of wigs, is good and less expensive than in the U.S. Barbershops offer good service for about half U.S. prices.

The Recreation Association has several rental vehicles available for members at lower than U.S. rates. Incoming and departing personnel have priority. An employee sponsor can reserve you a car if your exact arrival time is known.

Simple car repairs and services are readily obtained. However, since spare parts such as belts, gaskets, filters, and windshield wipers are scarce and expensive, bring or ship them.

Domestic Help

Most people employ a maid. Live-in maids are available, but qualified ones may be difficult to find. The CLO has information on domestics.

Day help is readily available. Heavy work, such as washing windows and shutters and waxing floors found in many houses usually is done by men called "mozos," who work 1 day every week or two at various houses. Gardeners, who sometimes double as mozos, are readily available, but usually require training. Daytime workers expect a light breakfast, a substantial, hot, noon meal, and perhaps tea and a sandwich around 5 pm.

The employer pays monthly salaries and social security benefits and taxes of 20%–25% of each month's salary for all live-in maids as well as day maids who work for only one employer. Room, board, and uniforms are provided for live-in help, and a Christmas and Chilean national day bonus is customary.

Religious Activities

Chile is predominantly Roman Catholic country, but Spanish-speaking Protestant congregations are also numerous. For the English-speaking community, the Santiago Community Church offers English-language Protestant services, and the Holy Cross Order at St. George's School provides a Roman Catholic Mass in English. Religion classes are available for the children of the English-language community. Other churches in the city serve members of the Christian Science, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and Seventh-day Adventist faiths. Several Mormon and Baptist churches offer services in Spanish.

Though Chile is predominantly Roman Catholic with Spanish-language services, English-language Protestant services are held in the Santiago Community Church.

Nido de Aguilas International School.

For children the English (Protestant) Community Church holds Sunday school. The International Preparatory School, Nido de Aguilas, as well as other schools provide Roman Catholic religious instruction.

Education

Dependent Education

Chile's established public school system is supplemented by numerous private schools, for students in nursery through high school. Classes are held from March to mid-December with a vacation of 2 weeks in July and 1 week in September. Most schools (but not Nido de Aguilas) require uniforms (see Clothing).

Most American children attend Nido de Aguilas International School, a fully accredited school, where the curriculum, textbooks, and methods are oriented to the U.S. school system. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the U.S. and by the Chilean Ministry of Education, Nido de Aguilas International School (Casilla 16.211, Santiago 9) is a coeducational N-12 school for students from Chile, the U.S., and numerous other countries. At Nido instruction is in English, using a U.S.-based curriculum. The student-teacher ratio is 20 to 1.

The school is multinational, multicultural, and nonsectarian—the only school of its kind in Chile. The headmaster and about one-third of the teachers are American.

The elementary grades offer an individually guided program based on language arts, social studies, math, science, music, and art. The secondary school prepares students to meet the admission requirements of both U.S. and Latin American universities. Elective programs and special tutorial courses help to accommodate the varied educational backgrounds and needs of all international students.

The guidance and counseling program assists students in adjusting to a new post and perhaps a new language. College and career counseling for Chilean, American, and other international students is a regular part of the program. The standardized testing program to measure achievement annually includes the Stanford Achievement Test for grades 3-9, the preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) for grades 10 and 11, and the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Test. The high school is a member of the National Honor Society. Junior and senior high school students can participate in Nido's active sports program and numerous extracurricular activities.

Several other schools offer an opportunity to study in English in elementary grades and in both English and Spanish, depending on the class, in high school. They are based on either the British or the American system. One other school besides Nido de Aguilas, a Baptist missionary school, called the Santiago Christian

Academy, offers a totally American curriculum through the 12th grade with American teachers, including the U.S. school calendar. Unlike Nido de Aguilas, it is not accredited by the Chilean Ministry of Education, or the U.S. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and is not government-supported. French, Italian, and German schools teach in their respective languages in the lower grades. Those interested in a local school other than Nido de Aguilas may write to the post for additional information. Although tuition and associated expenses at Nido determine "at post" education allowances, parents who select another school in Santiago receive an allowance up to that level, which usually covers tuition and related fees. Students in grades 9-12 may receive an "away from post" education allowance to attend a U.S. boarding school.

Special Educational Opportunities

Spanish-language training courses for adults are available, through the Embassy for all personnel and dependents on a space-available basis. The Chilean-North American Institute also provides special study opportunities and many cultural activities, such as lectures on Chilean history and culture and exhibits on Chilean art. The Institute's library features facilities in both English and Spanish. A staff member at the Institute specializes in counseling students considering attendance at U.S. colleges and universities.

Courses in painting, judo, ceramics, ballet, guitar, folk singing and dancing, and other cultural subjects are offered at various institutes around Santiago. There are good professional schools in classical dance and a respected music conservatory with excellent instruction. Fees vary but compare favorably with U.S. prices. French-language courses are available at the Alliance Francaise, and German is taught at the Goethe Institute.

Admission for Mission personnel to Santiago universities can usually be arranged for those fluent in Spanish and with adequate academic credentials. However, U.S. colleges and universities do not always recognize credits from local universities. The CLO can provide additional information.

Post Orientation Program

Periodic orientations are held at post for all U.S. personnel and their adult dependents. Representatives from all sections and agencies of the Mission discuss their basic objectives and the integration of their work with the rest of the Mission in carrying out U.S. policy in Chile.

The post also operates, through the CLO, a welcome-to-the-newcomer program which includes correspondence prior to arrival and a sponsorship program whereby seasoned members of the Embassy community provide support and guidance in the initial period of adjustment. A member of the American Government Association will also contact you soon after your arrival. CLO arranges a meeting with the new member of the Embassy community and makes available resource material and information on housing, schools, churches, and domestic employees. An administrative check-in (orientation and introduction to Mission personnel) and orientation provided by the Personnel Office to all newcomers, outlines post policy, regulations, standards, and procedures. A supplemental Welcome Kit provided by the Personnel Section contains useful information on living in Chile. Please read it immediately after arriving.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Chile offers a wide variety of tourist and sports activities throughout the year. Sports fans will find opportunities to enjoy many different attractions in Chile.

Santiago has many private and public tennis courts and swimming pools. Private country clubs (such as the Prince of Wales) offer a wide variety of sports, but memberships are generally expensive.

Skiing ranks as the outstanding sports attraction in Chile, where some of the finest skiing centers in the hemisphere are located. The skiing season lasts from June to October (and occasionally through November). The most popular ski areas—Portillo (site of international championship competitions), Faellones, Colorado, and La Parva—offer slopes for every skill level and are 1-2 hours from Santiago when traffic and weather conditions are good. Hotel rooms are expensive and reservations for July and August must be made several months in advance. The slopes are never as crowded as are many in the U.S.

Horseback riding is a year-round activity in Santiago. Several academies and riding clubs rent horses and provide instruction. Embassy personnel sometimes board a horse at a local stable. Hunting is popular, but Chile has no large game. Rifles may only be used in the extreme southern part of Chile. Most hunters use 12-gauge shotguns with No. 8 shot. Mission personnel may import 1,000 rounds of ammunition, which is also available locally. Partridge, quail, duck, and rabbits are hunted throughout Chile.

Chile offers superb trout fishing during October through mid-April in the south-central part of the country and some mountain lakes. Deep-sea fishing (broadbill, swordfish, and marlin) and surf casting are also available but less popular. Heavy tackle (20-25 pounds) is recommended; bring it with you. Ideal trout and salmon fishing spots are 3 hours to a day away by car or train or about 3 hours by plane from Santiago.

Many water sports are popular throughout Chile, for example, water skiing and boating on the lakes in both central and southern Chile. In some of the coastal cities, motorboats are available for rent. Along the coast and on some lakes are several private yacht clubs for those who wish to purchase their own boats. Because of the Humboldt Current, the ocean water is quite cold. Wet suits are essential for scuba diving.

Sports clothes and equipment are expensive here; bring adequate supplies with you or plan to order them from the U.S. unless you are willing to pay more.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Beautiful beaches are located within a 2-4 hour drive from Santiago. Some, however, are small, rocky, and dangerous because of strong undertows and lack of lifeguards. Because of the cold water, sunbathing is more popular than swimming at most beaches. Hotel accommodations are adequate, but make reservations for the summer months well in advance.

The private Prince of Wales Country Club (above) welcomes Americans; memberships are expensive.

One of the commemorative statues in downtown Santiago.

Chile's largest summer resort, Vina del Mar, offers good hotels, a municipal gambling casino, nightclubs, golf and tennis facilities, a racetrack, and public beaches. Other fine beaches, located both south and north of Vina, often lack the accommodations and facilities of the more popular resorts, but are far less crowded. Most Chilean hotels are currently less expensive than comparable U.S. hotels, even during the popular vacation months of January and February.

Other popular summer resorts are found in the lake region, about 500 miles south of Santiago. Known as the "Switzerland of South America," this area offers excellent trout fishing and some of the most magnificent scenery on the continent. Limited hotels require advance reservations during January and February.

Other summer activities include boat trips through the channels and fiords of the south, from Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas on the Straits of Magellan at the tip of the continent, and the excursion to the Juan Fernandez Islands, 400 miles off the coast of Valparaiso. An expensive but interesting monthly air excursion to King George Island in Antarctica has recently been inaugurated.

In Chile's extreme north (1,300 miles from Santiago, 2 hours and 40 minutes by jet), Arica features year-round spring weather, making it a popular spot in winter. It is also the base for excursions to the high Andean plateau and Lauca National Park, with vicunas, flamingos, and other Andean wildlife. All the major northern seacoast cities—La Serena, Antofagasta, Iquique, and Arica—have a mild climate, sandy beaches, and sunshine most of the year.

Opportunities for mountain climbing, hiking, and camping abound. Camping facilities vary widely, but most provide baths and hot showers. Campsites are crowded during January and February, but usually are empty the rest of the summer. Camping equipment and supplies are readily available, but are usually less expensive if bought in the U.S.

Buenos Aires (700 miles from Santiago), Montevideo, and Brazil are favorite tourist destinations for longer journeys. From Lima, which is only 3¼ hours away by jet, you can visit the Inca cities of Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Mendoza, Argentina, is only 40 minutes away by jet or 4-5 hours by car (except in winter, when the pass is often closed).

Most types of film can be developed and printed locally. Some types of color film may require U.S. processing. Afga, Fuji, Ektachrome, Kodacolor, and Polaroid films are generally available, though Kodachrome is very difficult to find.

This downtown area of Santiago shows the stock exchange.

Entertainment

In Santiago, the lovely Teatro Municipal is the center of an opera season, two ballet seasons, and two symphony orchestras that offer weekly concerts during the winter. Chamber music and choral groups perform frequently. At inexpensive concerts held weekly during season at lunchtime,

The Hilton Hotel, Santiago.

sandwiches and beverages are sold in the theater lobby. Relatively economical season tickets are available.

Theater plays an active role in Santiago's cultural life. Several theaters present a variety of dramatic and satirical plays in Spanish throughout the year. The English-language theater group, Santiago Stage, offers three or four productions a year and welcomes newcomers to the group.

The numerous movie theaters in the city and suburbs are good and inexpensive. All films are subject to censorship, with enforced minimum age limits set for each. Foreign films, which include many American films, are shown in their original language with Spanish subtitles.

Santiago has a few good nightclubs and discotheques. Most Chileans prefer to entertain in their own homes, but young, single adults frequently patronize clubs.

There are numerous average-to-excellent restaurants available in Santiago. Service usually starts at 8 pm and is usually very good. Excellent inexpensive Chilean wines provide an elegant accompaniment to any meal.

Social Activities

Among Americans. Membership in the American Association of Chile is open to all American women in Chile. Monthly meetings, usually a lunch or tea, provide a good opportunity to meet other American women. This Association sponsors also tennis, bowling, bridge, library, and sewing groups (including sewing for the charity bazaar), and several other charitable activities.

The American Government Association (AGA) is the organization to which all American employees and dependents automatically belong upon their assignment to the Embassy. An active Board generally made up of spouses of employees meets monthly to carry on the charitable work with which it is mostly concerned. General membership meetings are planned several times during the year, often in the form of a social activity for adults and at least once a year for families. The AGA assists in the welcoming of new Mission personnel and their families in an effort to promote a sense of cohesiveness within our Embassy community, works closely with the American Association of Chile, especially in a joint fundraising concert each year, and supports several local charities in an attempt to foster better relations between the U.S. and Chile. The principal charity is a home for 40 girls in the Ciudad del Nino, but also members visit weekly a home for the aged to play bingo with the some 160 residents, work closely with the small Casa de los Estados Unidos in the Aldea SOS, donate learning materials for the visually impaired at a School for the Blind in Vina del Mar, and have participated in other special events as

the need arises such as donating wheelchairs for a rehabilitation center in telethons and assisting a local soup kitchen for the poor.

International Contacts. The Rotary and the Lions Club have several local chapters. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has an affiliate in Santiago. Located near the Embassy, both the YWCA and the YMCA offer well-equipped facilities for sports and cultural programs.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Frequent official functions consist of the customary receptions, luncheons, and dinners. Informal, at-home entertaining is common among Chileans and U.S. and other foreign nationals.

Organizations for diplomats at all levels promote contact—through special programs, luncheons, and social events—within the functional areas, for example, a club for consular officers, and in a "Circulo Diplomatico" all officers below the ambassadorial level. A women's group, "Damas Diplomatics," for spouses of diplomatic-list personnel, meets monthly and sponsors a home for retarded children through fundraising.

Standards of Social Conduct

All officers and staff employees are presented to the Ambassador and DCM soon after arrival. Spouses are encouraged to call on the spouses of the Ambassador, the DCM, and their section or agency chief soon after arrival. Members of the diplomatic corps are announced to the Foreign Ministry and to the diplomatic missions by Embassy note. Officers whose duties require calling on officials outside the Mission should bring a supply of calling cards or arrange for their printing immediately upon arrival. Spanish-language cards printed locally and including the Embassy telephone number are more useful for other purposes. Bring informal cards with envelopes for invitations, acknowledgments, and other notes.

The "San Francisco" local church was built during Chile's colonial days.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Remember that the seasons are reversed in Chile, so include suitable clothing in baggage and airfreight. Allow for shipping time in planning clothing requirements and ship airfreight as far in advance of departure (at least 4 weeks) as possible so that it will arrive before you do. Surface freight and household effects take 6 weeks–2½ months.

Employees and dependents will each need about 6 small (1½" × 2") photographs for identification cards, though these can be made locally. Passport-sized photos are not acceptable. All personnel and older dependents receive special identity cards, issued by the Foreign Office, as well as Embassy I.D. cards. You can obtain identity card photos at post quickly and inexpensively.

Military personnel should correspond to the Defense Attache office for specific information about their assignment to Chile.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

Those with diplomatic or official passports must obtain diplomatic or official entry visas through the Department of State or a Chilean embassy overseas. Those with regular passports should enter on a tourist card. An exception is Fulbright grantees who have regular passports and to whom Chilean consuls will grant visas. Multiple entry visas can be obtained as appropriate after arrival by special arrangement between the Embassy and the MFA.

All personnel with diplomatic or consular titles have duty free-entry privileges. In addition, all personnel of NASA, IAGS, and DEA have free-entry privileges through an agreement with the Chilean Government.

Only after the employee has arrived and has been reported to the MFA may the Embassy clear through customs unaccompanied air baggage, surface shipments of household effects, and private cars.

Do not send packages to Chile through international parcel post. They are subject to long customs delays and possible duties and taxes.

Diplomatically accredited personnel are entitled to duty-free importation of their household effects and personally owned vehicles up to a total value of US$35,000, including cost, insurance, and freight. These items must be imported within the first year after the employee is accredited to the Chilean Government. Diplomatic personnel are further entitled to import duty-free up to US$5,000 worth of personal effects during each year of their tour. Nondiplomatic officer staff personnel are entitled to duty-free entry of their household effects and personal vehicle up to a total value of US$20,000 excluding freight costs during their first year in Chile. After being in Chile for 1 year, nonofficer staff personnel may not import duty free any additional effects into the country.

Diplomatically accredited officer personnel may import a second car after the first one has been in the country more than 2 years. Personnel may dispose of the first car free of duty after it has been in the country 3 years. The second car is not charged against the employee's import value quota.

The following restrictions apply to the importation of vehicles:

a. The Chilean Government does not allow administrative and technical staff to import a replacement vehicle during a tour of duty.

b. Permission must be granted by post before importing a vehicle. When requesting such permission, provide the make, model, and year of vehicle to be imported.

c. Avoid garish paint or seat covers, deluxe hubcaps or wheels, excessive ornaments, spotlights, extra outside lights, ornamental radio antennas, and novelty or unusual sounding horns. Standard equipment (such as automatic transmission, power brakes, power steering, or air-conditioning) is acceptable.

d. New cars made in other countries may be imported duty free. Locally assembled cars can no longer be purchased tax free.

Passage

If you want to drive to Santiago from a nearby post on transfer orders, save all border/customs documents and deliver them to the GSO Section once in the country.

When the Embassy receives this documentation, after you arrive in Chile and have been accredited, the Embassy will obtain a free-entry decree for your car.

Pets

Importation of household pets is permitted. Approval is usually granted upon arrival in Chile if pets are healthy and have the usual international health and vaccination certificates certified by a government animal health authority in the exporting country. Advise the Administrative Section prior to traveling if you plan to arrive at post with a pet in your possession.

Firearms and Ammunition

Only the following nonautomatic firearms may be brought into Chile:

Pistols and revolvers	.22 (short, long, long rifle), .32 or .38 cal.
Shotguns	410 ga., 16 ga., sport style

Ammunition for the above firearms is not to exceed 1,000 rounds.

Firearms may be included in household effects, but the packing list must give a full description and the serial number of each firearm and quantity of ammunition. Do not include firearms in airfreight shipments.

Because these restrictions are subject to change, personnel shipping firearms to Chile should inform the Embassy before packing and shipping.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

Chile's official currency unit is the peso (written $). The official rate of exchange in March 1985 was 145 pesos = US$1. This rate changes slightly on a daily basis. There is also as of March 1985 an unofficial "parallel" rate, 155 pesos = $1. Chile has 46 banking facilities, including several U.S. banks, many of which have numerous branches.

Chile uses the metric system of weights and measures. Agricultural land is measured in hectares (1 hectare = 10,000 square meters or 2.471 acres).

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Restrictions

Official U.S. Government personnel do not pay Chilean income taxes (except dependents working on the local economy) but do pay a value-added tax (VAT) on most goods and some services acquired in Chile. This tax is usually 20% and is usually included in quoted prices and rates.

No fee is charged for CD (diplomatic) or PAT (professional-administrative-technical) license plates, which are valid for the length of your tour. Drivers licenses are also provided at no cost. Local public liability insurance on personal vehicles is required by law and is available at a reasonable price.

Applicable taxes must be paid on cars (and selected other personal property items) that were imported duty free, when such items are sold (even if the car is by then free of import duty).

Pesos received from the sale of cars and personal property can be converted to dollars through the Embassy only when the employee is transferred or the car is sold for replacement purposes.

Facilities

The Embassy cashier accepts personal checks to purchase Chilean pesos as well as a limited supply of U.S. currency for travel outside the country. Personnel may establish a peso checking account at local banks, though few currently do so. U.S. travelers checks are available at local banks.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

American University. *Area Handbook for Chile.* U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. 1969.

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Loveman, Brian. *Chile, The Legacy of Hispanic Civilization.* Oxford University Press: New York, 1979.

Mamalakis, Markos. *The Growth and Structure of the Chilean Economy.* Yale University Press: New Haven, 1976.

Meehan, John. *With Darwin in Chile.* (Spanish translation, *Con Darwin en Chile*). Frederick Muller, Ltd.: London, 1967.

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Nunn, Frederick. *The Military in Chilean History.* University of New Mexico Press: Albuquerque, 1976.

Rodriguez Monegal, Emir, ed. *The Borzoi Anthology of Latin American Literature* (Volumes I and II). Alfred K. Knopf: New York, 1977.

Sigmund, Paul. *The Overthrow of Allende and the Politics of Chile 1964-1976.* University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh, 1978.

Smith, Brian. *The Church and Politics in Chile, Challenges to Modern Catholicism.* Princeton University Press: Princeton, 1982.

University of Chile, Institute of International Studies. *Chile: The Balanced View.* University of Chile: Santiago, 1975.

Valenzuela, J.S. and A., eds. *Chile: Politics and Society.* Transaction Books: New Brunswick, 1976.

Wheelan, James. *Allende, Death of a Marxist Dream.* Arlington House: Westport, Conn, 1981

Local Holidays

The U.S. Mission observes official U.S. holidays and is also closed on the following local holidays.

Good Friday	Variable
Labor Day	May 1
Battle of Iquique	May 21
Assumption Day	August 15
Official Holiday	September 11
Independence Days	September 18 and 19
Columbus Day	October 12
All Saints Day	November 1
Immaculate Conception	December 8